

Petty Sessions at Brackley. Mr. H. Friend, a sub-contractor, late on the Oxford and Rugby Railway, was summoned by two labourers for sums alleged to be due to them for work and labour on this railway. Mr. Masey, solicitor for the defendant, argued that the subject was not within the jurisdiction of the magistrates, inasmuch as the case did not come within the act 4th Geo. 4, c. 34. The chairman said, if such was the case, railway labourers were virtually unprotected. The magistrates adjourned the case for a month, and said they should in the mean time obtain counsel's opinion on the subject.—The opening of the Brighton and South Coast Railway, from Havant to Portsmouth, a length of 8 miles, was to take place on Tuesday last. The line has been inspected and approved. On this line, which is nearly a level throughout, the only work requiring notice is the bridge, and its approaches, across the creek at Portbridge, which has been built in accordance with the wishes of the officers of the Royal Engineers, is flanked by batteries on both sides, and has a magazine connected with it, so arranged as, in case of need, to destroy by explosion the entire bridge and all means of access into the island of Portsea at that part of it.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

The Windsor Castle and Town Improvement and Removal of Hatchet Bridge Bill, which was read the first time in the House of Commons on the 14th inst., will not be further proceeded with this session.—The restoration of the great east window of the chancel of St. Peter's Church, Sudbury, is about to be commenced. The whole frame-work and glass is to be taken out, and the stone-work completely restored with new, from a design by Mr. Sprague, architect, of Colchester, at the expense of Dr. Marleau, patron of St. Gregory's and St. Peter's. During the past winter, an examination of the interior of St. Gregory's chancel was made by the same architect and others, in order to find the piers and sedilla, but in vain; but shortly after, both were discovered by a bricklayer, who was sent to repair the breaches in the walls, and both are now open to view, after having been enclosed from the time of the Reformation.—The Portland Breakwater is now about to be proceeded with by Mr. Readall, the engineer, and the land for the fortifications has been surveyed. These works are to be of such an extensive character as must give permanent employment to a great many persons.—The Admiralty have ordered an increase of the wages of the extra-hired labourers of the Portsmouth dockyard from 12s. a week to 14s., in consequence of the high price of provisions.—A Taunton 'Mechanic' has been good enough to draw our attention to the fact of a strike having taken place amongst the Taunton masons and carpenters, but he will find that we had already noticed it in last week's BUILDER. He also informs us, however, of the result, viz., that "the masons have gained their point (an advance from 16s. to 18s.), but the carpenters only 1s. advance." The credit of these advances, our correspondent gives to "Messrs. Pettit, Pollard, Webber, and Vincent," and how can masters, he asks, who refuse to show a like sympathy with their workmen under the pressure of the present high prices of provisions, "expect them to strain a nerve" in their favour? It may indeed be a question for masters in some cases to consider whether they may not find their workmen willing, as well as able, to repay, or even more than repay, their generosity under present circumstances by this very "straining of a nerve," so significantly hinted at by a 'Mechanic.'—The Unitarians at Taunton intend to build a school, and thoroughly repair their chapel. Plans, adds our correspondent, have been drawn out by Mr. Ingle, architect.—A great number of the limestone gitters in the neighbourhood of Dudley have been also 'standing out' for a rise of wages, but they are said to have returned to their work.—The bricklayers' strike at Lincoln, by the way, is now at an end, an advance of 3d. a day having been agreed to.—A very different sort of result has been come to by the nail masters at Dudley, where a meeting of the two classes who pay low wages and high was lately held, for the purpose of making "a new list of workmen's prices,

which shall be satisfactory to all parties, and be adopted by the whole of the trade, such prices to be consistent with the present prices of provisions, coal, &c." Only four persons were present, and of these, not one of those who pay low wages. The meeting, thus finding that no sympathy for the workmen was shown by low-priced masters, declared their inability to continue paying the present rate of wages, even although they felt that the present high prices of provisions, coal, &c., demanded at least no reduction. This resolution, however, is of course itself tantamount to a notice to the poor fellows of reduction of their present wages; and what a time this is, to be sure, for reducing wages!—At the recent sale of timber on the estate of the Duke of Marlborough, prices did not average more than 1s. 6d. per foot.—In *The Times* city article, a new project, named the 'Pantdraining Quarry Slate Company,' with a capital of 40,000*l.*, for working a new field in the Bengor Slate formation, is favourably noticed. Most of the material is already provided, and the capital includes the purchase of the lease.—That 'monstrous piece of workmanship,' the new landing stage, at Liverpool, was to be tugged to its place, opposite St. George's Pier, on Tuesday last, by seven team-tugs.—After an agitation of nearly two years, the Lincoln Corn Exchange project is at length so far in progress that the plans are drawn, and tenders are advertised for. To the back of the present Cornhill, a three-story building, with Corinthian capitals, is to be erected, containing various public rooms. To the rear is the Corn Exchange, to be lighted from the roof with skylights. On the south side of the newly-laid-out street is to be a covered market, and on the north an open one. The plans and elevations have been prepared by Mr. W. A. Nicholson, the city surveyor. On Monday week, as was announced, the first stone of the New Markets at Doncaster was laid, with masonic honours.—The foundation-stone of the Gateshead Mechanics' Institute was to be laid on Monday last by Mr. William Hutt, M.P.—The proprietor of the Durham Glass Works at Gateshead, Mr. Joseph Price, has undertaken to provide an air-tight bottle, illustrative of the present state of the art of glass-making in England, to be deposited in the foundation-stone of the Institute, with a list in it of the subscribers to the Building Fund, the committee, &c., &c.—The baths projected at Dundee are about to be commenced.—The Dublin Corporation have also resolved to erect baths and wash-houses for the poor.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in moving for a further advance of 600,000*l.* from the Consolidated Fund, towards the removal of the destitution of Ireland till next harvest, admitted that "the Public Works Act had been abused by all classes in Ireland. The relief committees, instead of rigidly revising the lists, had only added numbers to numbers, and the consequence was, that upwards of 700,000 persons had been placed on the public works. The Government had found it impossible at first to get persons withdrawn from the public works; and it was not till the 20th of March that it had succeeded in obtaining the forcible reduction of their numbers. By that reduction the Government had got the spring crops sown. The Government had since made another reduction, and he was not sure that it would have been able to make it, if it had not threatened to stop all the works on the 1st of May. The result had been, that the expenditure of the public works had been diminished from the sum of 259,000*l.* expended weekly in March last, down to 53,000*l.*, expended weekly at present. The new system of relief was now in operation in 1,900 out of 2,050 electoral divisions, and we were now affording 2,253,000 rations a day in Ireland." Meantime the destitute Irish are continuing to shew their gratitude for all these Saxon mercies in their own peculiar way. A check clerk under the Board of Works at Kilkenny was requested the other day by three gentlemen, armed with the official baton of Irish law, viz., the firearm, to contribute his quota to the payment of the enormous debt due by England to Ireland, which was accordingly done to the amount of 15s., or the sum total probably of his week's wages. That he was not required to yield up more than mere money he had reason to be thankful. At Glenfin, in County

Derry, an agent of the Board of Works, and agriculturist of an estate, who had made arrangements for expending about 400*l.* or 500*l.* on the property in works, for behoof of the destitute, was attacked a few days since by upwards of a hundred armed men, headed by a man in woman's clothes, and forced to put out his tongue, while they coolly cut away an inch of it!

THE CHARTER-HOUSE, LONDON.

The Charter-house will afford a pleasant and instructive ramble to those who like memorials of the past. Quite apart and distinct from the busy world without, upon "13 acres and 1 rod of land," appropriated by Sir Walter de Manny, of Hainault, as a place of interment for the poor and needy destroyed by the plague in 1349, the present structure stands, including many parts of the earlier buildings which preceded it. "Sir Walter de Manny erected in the present Charter-house-square a chapel for masses on behalf of those who were interred; and it is apparent, from a bull which he obtained of Pope Clement VI., that he had intended to add a college.

In 1361, Michael de Northburgh, Stratford's successor to the bishopric of London, purchased of Sir Walter the whole cemetery, and at his death, on the 9th of September in the same year, bequeathed it, with all his property, for the founding, building, and furnishing a monastery of Carthusians,—an order instituted in 1080, by Bruno, at Chertreux, in the French diocese of Grenoble.

In 1371, Sir Walter de Manny, with the consent of the then bishop of London, Simon of Sudbury, to whom Michael de Northburgh had left the patronage and care of his foundation, took on him the charge, and founded a monastery of twenty-four Carthusians. He died in 1372, and was buried in the monastery: his funeral being attended by the king and his children, and the barons and prelates of England."

The monastery was surrendered to Henry VIII. in 1537; and after passing through various hands, was purchased in 1611, by Thomas Sutton, a wealthy merchant of London, who obtained letters patent, authorising him to endow an hospital and school within its precincts.

In illustration of the buildings and foundation, we have now before us two books. One is a folio, entitled *Memorials of Charter-House*, which consists of a series of views drawn and lithographed by Mr. C. W. Radclyffe, and accompanied by brief descriptions, which was published for little more than private circulation, in 1844, and is now brought before the public. The second is an octavo volume, called *Chronicles of Charter-House*, by a Carthusian, which was issued quite recently. The latter goes more fully into the history of the monastery and Sutton's noble foundation, and is illustrated by several small etchings.

Over the present porter's lodge is the house formerly occupied by the physicians of the Charter-house. The wooden gates there are the ancient gates of the monastery. The building which stands on the right hand, in the Entrance Court, is thought to be a part of the "fair dwelling" erected by Sir Edward North on the ruins of the monastery, about 1537. The middle court, now called the Master's Court, was also part of North's building. The Long Gallery, which looks into the Entrance Court, was formerly more than 100 feet long, but is now reduced to 45 feet by partitions.

The "Washhouse Court" is one of the few remnants of the old monastery, and will be regarded with interest. The "Preacher's Court" is the most important in appearance. The site of the chapel, from an old plan now in existence, bearing date about the year 1500, seems to be in a great measure identical with that of the monastery. The south wall is probably the oldest portion of the building; but the east wall, now standing, may doubtless lay claim to considerable antiquity: for on the removal of the wainscoting, in the course of repairs which took place in 1842, an old ambrie was discovered towards its south corner. The Ante-Chapel, which, like the Evidence Room above it, has a groined roof, bears the date 1512.

The Great Chamber, or Old Governor's